CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 3 JUNE 1998 FROM THE ACTING PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ROMANIA ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF ROMANIA WHILE ON A STATE VISIT TO CANADA ON 29 MAY 1998 TAKING NOTICE OF THE DANGEROUS ESCALATION OF TENSIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

I have the honour to send you the statement issued by H.E. Mr. Emil Constantinescu, President of Romania, on 29 May 1998, while on a State Visit to Canada, taking notice of the dangerous escalation of tensions between India and Pakistan.

I would be grateful if, in accordance with the established practice, you would arrange for this statement to be issued as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and circulated to all delegations, both of member and of observer States.

(Signed) Pavel Grecu
Acting Permanent Representative

GE.98-62158

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Together with the entire international community, Romania condemns the dangerous actions, jeapordizing world peace, which the Governments of India and Pakistan have recently engaged, along the lines of potential nuclear conflict. Romania has suffered too much as a result of nuclear escalation during the Cold War period to look on with indifference to the serious dangers which certain countries bring upon themselves, and upon the entire world, when attempting, through aggressive policies, to open up again the tragic era of mutual nuclear threats, of suspicion and fear. After 1989, mankind now finally has the chance for global peaceful development. We ask all responsible political decision makers, from all the countries of the world, to honestly cooperate, so as not to let this chance go by.

Access to nuclear energy involves a high degree of responsibility to the citizens of one's own country and to the world as a whole. Any country which holds and uses nuclear reactors must undertake full responsibility and not allow for the perversion of their use as nuclear weapons. Romania, a co-signatory of all relevant international agreements, has developed, in a spirit of full responsibility and transparency, production units for the exclusively peaceful use of nuclear energy, and which have been and continue to be permanently and unreservedly submitted to international control. Therefore, we have the moral authority to call upon India and Pakistan to refrain from any action of a nature to bring the threat of nuclear war back to the forefront of international relations.

Romania, as it has always done, will respect all decisions taken by international bodies in this respect. We join all member states of the Security Council and North Atlantic Alliance which demand that India and Pakistan immediately and permanently put an end to nuclear tests and mutual threats. Both countries should openly recognize that it is the right of the international community to ask all its members to put an end, for good, to the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons or of any other means of mass destruction, which jeopordize all of mankind.